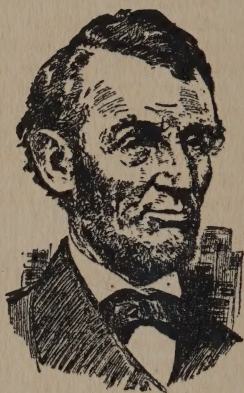


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A Tribute to
ABRAHAM LINCOLN
by
WADE H. COOPER



Extract from an Address
at Lincoln Memorial University
Harrogate, Tennessee
On the occasion of the installation of
ROBERT ORVILLE MATTHEWS, D.D., LL.D.
as President
November 11, 1923



OUR COUNTRY has been ever generous in its production of great men. I have great admiration for George Washington, the father of our Country, and many other great Americans, but to my mind Abraham Lincoln, the preserver and saviour of our great Republic, surpasses them all. The spirit of that rugged man of sorrowful life and tragic death is a heritage and an inspiration to all our people and touches alike the mansion and the cabin.

The greatest declaration ever made for human liberty, human rights and human justice was the immortal Emancipation Proclamation of Abraham Lincoln in January, 1863, driving slavery forever from the soil of our great Country. There is no other declaration in all history, from the very earliest dawn of authenticity, that even approaches this Declaration for human freedom by Abraham Lincoln, save the declarations contained in Magna Charta when the people wrested their rights from King John at Runnymede.

If I could send a message today to every boy and girl in my beloved Country to point to them the upward paths of life, there are many great Americans, living and dead, whose footsteps I could bid them trace, but I should not fail to fix in their mental vision the path of glory that leads from the immortal Rail Splitter's cabin to the Olympus of eternal fame.

As a patriotic American, a son of the South, proud of our great Country and its vast achievements, I reverently salute the memory of Abraham Lincoln and give today the tribute of the South as I know it to exist in the hearts of her great people.

The name of Abraham Lincoln belongs to no section but to the whole Nation and to the entire World. In every land and every clime where people love human freedom and human justice, their hearts and souls will ever thrill at the mention of his immortal name.

